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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: human resources development

Ecuador:* draft resolution

Human resources development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001, 58/207 of 23 December 2003, 60/211 of 22 December 2005, 62/207 of 19 December 2007, 64/218 of 21 December 2009, 66/217 of 22 December 2011, 68/228 of 20 December 2013 and 70/220 of 22 December 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Stressing that human resources development lies at the heart of economic, social and environmental development and that health and education are at the core of human resources development,

Stressing also that human resources development is vital to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and to expand opportunities for people, in particular for the most vulnerable groups of the population,

Welcoming the considerable efforts made over the years, yet recognizing that many countries continue to face formidable challenges in developing a sufficient pool of human resources capable of meeting national economic and social needs and that the formulation and implementation of effective human resources strategies often require resources and capacities not always available in developing countries, and also recognizing the need for new ways to address human resources development,

Stressing that human resources development is even more critical in view of the current global challenges, including, despite evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, in order to tackle the negative effects of the global crisis and set the basis for sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and recovery,

Stressing also that climate change is a significant development challenge and that improving educational and institutional capacities to tackle climate change is closely linked to human resources development efforts to ensure that populations can lead healthy and prosperous lives,

Recognizing that the benefits of human resources development are best realized in national and international environments that support equality of opportunity and treatment, access to education and non-discrimination and maintain an enabling environment for job creation,

Recognizing also that despite evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis continue to diminish the ability of many countries, especially developing countries, to cope with and address human resources development challenges and to formulate and implement effective strategies for poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community, and stressing that the brain drain continues to be a severe problem in many developing and transitioning countries, undermining efforts in the area of human resources development,

Recognizing the need to align science, technological knowledge and innovation systems with national development objectives, fully integrated with national human resources development, labour needs and poverty eradication strategies and supported by appropriate institutional and policy frameworks, which can lead to positive transformations in people's lives,

Acknowledging that science, technological knowledge and innovation policies should take into account the specific features of the economy in developing countries, including the size of the traditional sector, the importance of indigenous knowledge, the limited access to skilled labour and capital, weak infrastructure and inadequate institutional frameworks, in order to generate solutions that address the

specific challenges of those countries and to foster synergies between modern science and technology and indigenous and local knowledge,

Stressing that rapid technological changes and breakthroughs in fields such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, nanotechnology, three-dimensional printing, genetics and biotechnology are expanding at an exponential pace and shaping the world of work and that, in this regard, the development of human resources needs to keep pace,

Stressing also that renewed attention should be paid to the impacts of technological and scientific advances on human resources development and to the development of proactive strategies and investments for inclusive human resources development, supported by national normative frameworks that address emerging issues in the future of work, education and training,

Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

Recognizing that education is the key to promoting the development of human potential, equality and understanding among peoples, as well as to sustaining economic growth and eradicating poverty, and recognizing also that, to achieve those ends, it is essential that quality education be available to all, including indigenous peoples, girls and women, rural inhabitants and persons with disabilities,

Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development, and the need for continued support from the international community for the national efforts of developing countries,

Stressing also the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country and no one is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Calls upon* States to place human resources development at the core of economic and social development and to develop short-, medium- and long-term strategies to effectively enhance their human resources capacities, as educated, skilled, healthy, capable, productive and flexible workforces are the foundation for achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development;

3. *Stresses* the need for States to emphasize and integrate human resources development into national development strategies, including national development policies and strategies to eradicate poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to address structural and multidimensional challenges to enhancing national productive capacities and to ensure that human resources development implications are taken into account by all national development stakeholders;

4. *Recognizes* that comprehensive approaches to human resources development that address poverty eradication and the creation of a skilled workforce are also critical in reducing unemployment and brain drain and in promoting greater social inclusion;

[1] A/72/292.

5. *Also recognizes* that the future of work, shaped by progress in science and technology, requires a shift towards lifelong learning and a transformation towards comprehensive, life-cycle approaches to education and training and that, in a world of work that is changing at an ever faster pace, adaptability and the willingness to reskill are key to success in matching trends in the global economy;

6. *Encourages* States, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to take appropriate steps, in accordance with their plans and policies, to help individuals to make well-informed choices in education, training and careers, develop an integrated high-quality system of education and training that responds to constantly evolving needs, promote employer recognition and career development based on skills and mastery and foster a culture that supports and celebrates lifelong learning, in order to provide opportunities for all to develop their fullest potential throughout life, regardless of their starting points, thereby improving their chances of staying gainfully employed, and calls for more effective support for developing countries in this regard, including from the United Nations system;

7. *Encourages* States to adopt and implement comprehensive human resources development strategies premised on national development objectives that ensure a strong link between equality, education, training and employment, help to maintain a productive and competitive workforce and are responsive to the needs of the economy;

8. *Stresses* that human resources development policies should focus on supporting the emergence of a sufficiently wide and flexible pool of skilled human resources, especially among women and youth, to support all sectors of the economy and be matched with present and future workforce needs, which requires well-sequenced investments in basic education, vocational training, on-the-job training and more advanced managerial, engineering and scientific education to increase the supply of technological knowledge that can be absorbed by national innovation systems;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for States to adopt cross-sectoral approaches and mechanisms to identify human resources development needs in the medium and long term for all sectors of the economy and to formulate and implement policies and programmes to address those needs;

10. *Recognizes* that comprehensive and flexible science, technological knowledge and innovation strategies that encompass all sectors of the economy are critical to ensuring that skills are matched with labour market demand and ready to adapt to and benefit from a constantly evolving technology landscape;

11. *Emphasizes* that when science, technological knowledge and innovation and human resources development approaches are mutually reinforcing they can lead to a virtuous circle of economic growth, human progress and sustainable development;

12. *Also emphasizes* the importance of learning new skills faster in the context of rapid technological progress, and therefore stresses the need for early childhood education and lifelong learning skills, including through increased investment in teacher training and improved access to digital learning resources, especially in developing countries;

13. *Stresses* that investment in human resources development should be an integral part of national development policies and strategies, and in this regard calls for the adoption of policies to facilitate investment focused on physical and social infrastructure, including education, in particular skills upgrading and vocational training in areas such as science and technology, including information and

communications technology, as well as in capacity development, health and sustainable development;

14. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, to continue to strengthen comprehensive social protection systems, to adopt policies that strengthen existing safety nets and protect vulnerable groups and to take other appropriate actions, including boosting domestic consumption and production, recognizes that social protection floors, defined according to national priorities and the individual circumstances of States, can provide systemic approaches to addressing poverty and vulnerability and can contribute significantly to successful human resources development strategies, acknowledges, in this regard, that many developing countries lack the necessary financial resources and capacity to implement such countercyclical measures, and in this regard recognizes the need for continued mobilization of additional domestic and international resources, as appropriate;

15. *Encourages* States to consider policies consistent with the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and their obligations under all relevant ratified conventions of the International Labour Organization, and recalls the importance of promoting decent work for all and of increasing quality jobs, including through measures aimed at ensuring occupational health and safety and through working relationships based on effective social dialogue;

16. *Urges* the United Nations to intensify support for States in fully implementing the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in 2016;[2]

17. *Stresses* that human resources development strategies should include measures aimed at reducing unemployment and underemployment among young men and women and the long-term unemployed, who have been disproportionately affected by slow growth in jobs recovery, and to integrate underutilized human resources into the labour market through policies that promote skills development and productivity and reduce barriers to employment, including gender barriers, including by providing incentives as appropriate for recruiting, retaining and retooling, assistance in job-finding and job-matching and vocational and on-the-job training, and by promoting, inter alia, youth entrepreneurship, noting in this regard the call for action by the International Labour Conference in 2012;

18. *Also stresses* the need for States to retain and further enhance national human resources by boosting job-rich recovery and promoting decent work, including by adopting policies and incentives that enhance labour productivity and stimulate private investment and entrepreneurship and strengthen the role of labour administration and institutions in order to foster job creation, address the gender wage gap, reduce occupational segregation and increase the participation of vulnerable groups, including workers in the informal economy;

19. *Emphasizes* the need to address the interlinkages among human resources development, energy and food security, agriculture and rural development, and encourages States to strengthen capacity in agriculture and rural development;

20. *Encourages* States to adopt and implement human resources development policies that create dynamic capabilities and core skills so as to develop, facilitate access to and apply environmentally sound technologies, and welcomes the launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism established in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[1] based on a multi-stakeholder collaboration among

[1] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[2] Resolution 69/313, annex, para. 123.

States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders, in order to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

21. *Stresses* that sustainable development is dependent, inter alia, on healthy human resources, calls upon States to continue their efforts to strengthen national health systems, urges the further strengthening of international cooperation in the area of health, inter alia, by considering promoting universal health coverage and through the exchange of best practices in the areas of strengthening health systems, access to medicines, training of health personnel, transfer of technology and production of affordable, safe, effective and good-quality medicine, and in this regard stresses that international cooperation and assistance, in particular external funding, need to become more predictable and to be better aligned with national priorities and channelled to recipient countries in ways that strengthen national health systems;

22. *Calls upon* the international community, including the entities of the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries to address the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, in particular in Africa, as well as the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, which is a challenge of epidemic proportions, and their effects on human resources;

23. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations entities to support national efforts to build institutional capacities to address long-term national human resources development needs in addition to providing training to individuals;

24. *Calls upon* the international community to assist developing countries in the implementation of national human resources development strategies, and encourages the international community, including the private sector and relevant civil society actors, to provide and mobilize financial resources, capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and to supply expertise from all sources, as available;

25. *Calls for* steps to integrate gender perspectives into human resources development, including through policies, strategies and targeted actions aimed at promoting women's capacities and access to productive activities, and in this regard emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of such policies, strategies and actions;

26. *Stresses* the important contributions of the public and private sectors, respectively, in meeting national training and education needs to support the efficient functioning of enterprises and matching the needs of a rapidly changing economy, and encourages the integration of those contributions, including through the greater use of public-private partnerships and incentives;

27. *Calls for* actions at the national, regional and international levels that will give high priority to improving and expanding literacy, as well as science proficiency, including by providing tertiary, technical vocational and adult education, and stresses the need to ensure that, by 2030, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education;

28. *Encourages* Governments to consider appropriate measures at the national level, such as upgrading human skills, better aligning educational and training systems to labour market needs and strengthening labour institutions and regulations to respond to economic downturns;

29. *Encourages* countries to maintain or consider enhancing measures to boost job-rich recovery, such as policies and incentives to enhance labour productivity and stimulate private investment, in addition to efforts to reduce budget deficits in the long term, as appropriate;

30. *Encourages* efforts by States and the international community to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, in particular by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration, and in this regard reiterates the need to consider innovative measures to maximize the benefits of migration while minimizing the negative effects of the migration of both highly skilled and low-skilled workers from developing countries;

31. *Encourages* States to give appropriate consideration to human resources development strategies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[4]

32. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country and no one is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".

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[4] Resolution 70/1.